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EXAMINER
CHUONG, TRUC T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2174	2

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
   closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-26* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-26* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
           application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .   6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1.   Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: missing a period "." at the

end. Appropriate correction is required.

Double Patenting

2.   Claim 16 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 15.

When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both

cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim

to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP

§ 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed
> in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for
> patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an
> international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this
> subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United
> States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4.   Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Weinberg et al.

(U.S. Patent No. 6,144,962).

As to claim 1, Weinberg teaches a computer-implemented method for making resources available to an organization, the method comprising: presenting a hierarchy comprising a plurality of nodes (hierarchical tree, col. 2 lines 35-37, and figs. 2-5) wherein at least one of the nodes represents resources for performing tasks of the organization (col. 2 lines 12-14); and presenting a link group associated with at least one of the nodes (children and parents nodes, col. 2 lines 37-48, and figs. 5-6) wherein the link group comprises one or more links through which to open files or execute programs to access the resources and accomplish at least one of the tasks (launching an application, col. 10 lines 16-34).

As to claim 2, Weinberg teaches a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1 (software package "Astra" runs on a client computer, col. 7 lines 48-54).

As to claim 3, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the link group is extensible to allow a plurality of users to add links and thereby add to the available resources (add a dataset to the current URL, col. 25 lines 9).

As to claim 4, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising: organizing the resources into functional areas; representing each functional area by a node of the plurality; and, receiving a user selection of at least one of the nodes (Astra Graphical User Interface, col. 15 lines 40-67, col. 16 lines 1-39, and figs. 3-5, 19, 21), wherein the one or more links of the presented link group are usable to open files or execute programs to access resources of the functional area represented by the selected node (col. 8 lines 40-50, and fig. 14).

As to claim 5, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the presented link group comprises a link to a web site regarding the functional area represented by the selected node (col. 8 lines 40-50, and fig. 14).

As to claim 6, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the presented link group comprises a link to a document regarding the functional area (col. 8 lines 40-50).

As to claim 7, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the presented link group comprises a link to set up an email to a person responsible for the functional area (mail message, col. 8 lines 46-50).

As to claim 8, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the presented link group comprises a link to a software useful in performing work in the functional area (filter bar, col. 16 lines 21-39).

As to claim 9, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the hierarchy is a tree, wherein the node to which the link group is associated is a child node, and wherein at least one of the plurality of nodes is a parent of the child node (figs. 2, 5, and 6).

As to claim 10, Weinberg teaches a method for enabling a plurality of users to collaborate on a project, the method comprising: presenting a graphical hierarchy having a plurality of nodes, each node representing one or more sub-projects into which the project is divided; and, in response to user selection of a node of the plurality, presenting one or more links, wherein the links are selectable to open files or execute programs for use by one or more of the plurality of users to contribute to the one or more sub-projects represented by the selected node (see claim 1 and figs. 2, 5, and 6).

As to claim 11, it is individually similar in scope to claim 2 above; therefore, rejected under similar rationale.

As to claim 12, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 10, further comprising: displaying at least one representation of a task associated with a node of the plurality of nodes (figs. 14 and 19); displaying at least one representation of a computer that is to be used to work on the project (figs. 19 and 21), wherein the computer has a work queue (Link Doctor of fig. 22); and, in response to a user of the plurality moving the task representation to the computer representation, adding the represented task to the work queue of the represented computer (Edit, col. 31 lines 14-24, and fig. 22).

As to claim 13, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 10, further comprising: displaying at least one representation of a task associated with a node of the plurality of nodes (see claim 12 above); displaying at least one representation of a user of the plurality of users (Weinberg shows plurality of users (Internet and World Wide Web, col. 5 lines 23-27, and col. 5 lines 57-65), wherein the represented user has a work queue; and, in response to a transfer of the task representation to the user representation, adding the represented task to the work queue of the represented user (see claim 12 above).

As to claim 14, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 10, wherein the graphical hierarchy is a tree, and is presented in a first pane of a user interface (col. 2 lines 35-37, and fig. 6), and wherein the links are presented in a second pane of the user interface (Pan Window, col. 17 lines 21-39, and fig. 5).

As to claims 15 and 16, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 12, wherein the graphical hierarchy is a tree, and is presented in a first pane of a user interface, the links are presented in a

second pane of the user interface (see claim 14 above), and the work queue is represented in a third pane of the user interface (figs. 5 and 22).

As to claim 17, Weinberg teaches a method for making software testing resources available, the method comprising: presenting a graphical hierarchy comprising a plurality of nodes (figs. 1-5), wherein each node represents a set of software tests (test scripts of TABLE 2, col. 18 lines 20-35); and, in response to a user selection of at least one of the nodes, presenting a group of links, wherein the links are activatable by the user to open files or execute programs to (see claim 1 above) assist the user in conducting the set of software tests represented by the selected node (test software packages of TABLE 2, col. 18 lines 20-35).

As to claim 18, it is individually similar in scope to claim 2 above; therefore, rejected under similar rationale.

As to claim 19, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 17, further comprising: presenting one or more representations of computers; and; in response to dragging a node of the plurality of nodes over to at least one of the representations, adding the set of software tests represented by the dragged node to the computer represented by the representation (see test scripts of claim 17 above, and drags and drops, col. 16 lines 40-57 and fig. 4).

As to claim 20, Weinberg teaches the method of claim 17, further comprising: presenting the graphical hierarchy in a first pane of a user interface (col. 2 lines 35-37, and fig. 6); and, presenting the group of links in a second pane of the user interface (figs. 4-5).

As to claim 21, this is a system claim of method claims 1 and 13. Note the rejections of claims 1 and 13 above.

As to claim 22, this is a system claim of method claims 10 and 14. Note the rejections of claims 10 and 14 above.

As to claim 23, it is individually similar in scope to claim 2 above; therefore, rejected under similar rationale.

As to claims 24-25, they are system claims of method claims 9-10. Note the rejections of claims 9-10 above respectively.

As to claim 26, it is individually similar in scope to claim 25 above; therefore, rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

5.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wanderski (U.S. Patent No. 6,147,687) teaches hierarchy, nodes, links, applications, GUI, and plurality objects (cols. 4-12 and figs. 3-4).

Weidenfeller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,028,602) teach GUI, hierarchical tree, executable applications, links, and grouping (cols. 3-9 and figs. 2-11).

Wittenburg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,656) teach hierarchy structure, links, objects, and GUI (cols. 3-15 and figs. 6-14).

Wical (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,410) teaches hierarchical structure, links, GUI, sub-system, and display documents (cols. 2-26 and figs. 1-9).

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Truc T Chuong whose telephone number is 703-305-5753. The

examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone numbers for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular

communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Truc T. Chuong   *Kristine Kincaid*
June 16, 2003   KRISTINE KINCAID
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                                                        TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100